



Capital Chit-Chat

Newsletter of the Defence Force Welfare Association -



December 2017

ACT BRANCH AGM and 2017 REPORTS

The Branch President presented his annual report to the Branch AGM that was held on 17 October. His report, the report of the Defence Widows Group and audited financial reports are available on the DFWA website (go to www.dfwa.org.au and then to Contacts/Branches/ACT)

MEMBERSHIP DATABASE

The development and testing of the database is now complete (see *Camaraderie* article). I now have to verify and update the data uploaded to the system which will take some weeks. When this is complete, I will advise all members with a valid email address of how they can obtain their user name and temporary password to access their records. I will send this out before the end of January, so if you haven't received the information by February it probably means that the Branch does not have a valid email address recorded for you. In this case please send your email address to actbranch@dfwa.org.au and the information will be sent to you.

If you have any questions I can be contacted at -2 6291 4491 or goodhew@home.com.au.

Trevor Goodhew, Membership Secretary

2017/18 SUBSCRIPTIONS

In 2016 DFWA changed its subscription dates to match financial years not calendar years. The ACT Branch decided to accommodate that change by extending the 2016 membership year to 30 Jun 17. This means that annual subscriptions are now due for financial year 2017/18. Many members have paid these subscriptions but if you are unsure you can check your status on the mailing label for this issue of *Camaraderie*. However, please note that the labels had to be printed from the old database so reflect the calendar year expiry dates. To check your subscription status check the 'expires:' section on the first line of the mailing label:

If it shows Dec 2016 or earlier, then subscriptions are due.

If it shows Dec 2017 or later, no subscriptions are due this year.

Life members (LM) and Honorary Life Members (HLM) do not pay subscriptions.

BRANCH COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Your Committee meets regularly at The Burns Club, usually every second month on a Tuesday late morning. Dates for 2018 meetings are on the DFWA website.

DEFENCE WIDOWS GROUP COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE AT THE AWM

On 26 October the DWG had its 7th Commemorative Service as part of the Last Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial. For the information of our new widows, the first was in 2011 to mark the 30th Anniversary of the establishment of our Group (then known as the Defence Widows Support Group). It was very successful and the War Memorial invited us to have an annual ceremony which we did until 2015 when we asked to combine it with the Last Post Ceremony. Every year our ceremony has been a little bit different and for the last two years we have sponsored the featuring of a family member of one of our widows. This year it was actually two brothers – Lionel and Thomas Schmitzer who both served in World War I. Lionel served as Jack Smith having been initially rejected because of his German name. Thomas was killed in Sunray Trench and Lionel died while receiving treatment for his wounds after being evacuated to England from Villers Bretonneux. It was very satisfying to have Heather Schmitzer's family join us for our Commemorative service, particularly when it included younger members. We thank Judy Rule for her co-ordination with the Memorial and the family.



MEDICAL ALARMS AND THE NBN

If you are changing your phone to the NBN, you need to contact your medical alarm provider to ensure your device will still work. This also applies to other devices like family and friend autodialers, emergency call buttons and priority assistance services. There is no need for you to be alarmed by this advice but it is wise to check

ACCESS TO SUPPORT SERVICES IN THE ACT - ONELINK

OneLink gives you information and easy access to support services in the ACT. OneLink can connect you to a wide range of services including:

- Child, youth and family services
- Tenancy support
- Support for people who are homeless
- Legal services
- Financial counselling
- Mental health services
- And many other support services

OneLink can talk to you about housing options, including emergency accommodation. OneLink can provide information about public housing, community housing, private rental and other options, and about what assistance might be available for you to secure a tenancy.

A OneLink intake officer will talk to you about your situation and what services might help. The intake officer will then provide information about options and, where appropriate, will follow up to connect you to services. The intake officer will stay in touch until you have the services you need. OneLink is a service provided by Woden Community Service with the assistance from the ACT Government in the form of funding from the Community Services Directorate.

Phone: 1800 176 468 **Email:** info@onelink.org.au

Drop in: Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, Housing ACT Central Access Point

Nature Conservation House, (Corner of Emu Bank & Benjamin Way), Belconnen 2617 ACT